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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2733**

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**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives P. Sullivan, Simpson, Haler, McCoy, Schual-Berke, Curtis, Green and Morrell)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1            AN ACT Relating to information on high school transcripts; and  
2 amending RCW 28A.305.220 and 28A.655.061.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.305.220 and 2004 c 19 s 108 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) The state board of education shall develop for use by all  
7 public school districts a standardized high school transcript. The  
8 state board of education shall establish clear definitions for the  
9 terms "credits" and "hours" so that school programs operating on the  
10 quarter, semester, or trimester system can be compared.

11            (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include (~~the~~  
12 ~~following information:~~

13            ~~(a) The highest scale score and level achieved in each content area~~  
14 ~~on the high school Washington assessment of student learning or other~~  
15 ~~high school measures successfully completed by the student as provided~~  
16 ~~by RCW 28A.655.061 and 28A.155.045;~~

17            ~~(b) All scholar designations as provided by RCW 28A.655.061;~~

18            ~~(c))~~ a notation of whether the student has earned a certificate of

1 individual achievement or a certificate of academic achievement by  
2 means of the Washington assessment of student learning or by an  
3 alternative assessment.

4 (3) Transcripts are important documents to students who will apply  
5 for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher education.  
6 Transcripts are also important to students who will seek employment  
7 upon or prior to graduation from high school. It is recognized that  
8 student transcripts may be the only record available to employers in  
9 their decision-making processes regarding prospective employees. The  
10 superintendent of public instruction shall require school districts to  
11 inform annually all high school students that prospective employers may  
12 request to see transcripts and that the prospective employee's decision  
13 to release transcripts can be an important part of the process of  
14 applying for employment.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2004 c 19 s 101 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be  
18 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities  
19 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which  
20 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature  
21 pursuant to subsection (~~((11))~~) (10) of this section, one or more  
22 objective alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate  
23 achievement of state academic standards. The objective alternative  
24 assessments for each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the  
25 skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the  
26 Washington assessment of student learning for each content area.

27 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of  
28 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the  
29 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met  
30 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.  
31 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW  
32 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation  
33 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for  
34 graduation.

35 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception  
36 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who  
37 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics

1 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student  
2 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a  
3 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more  
4 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,  
5 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to  
6 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully  
7 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the  
8 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once  
9 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection  
10 ~~((11))~~ (10) of this section, a student may use the objective  
11 alternative assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully  
12 meets the state standards for that content area if the student has  
13 retaken the Washington assessment of student learning at least once.  
14 If the student successfully meets the state standards on the objective  
15 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of  
16 academic achievement. The student's transcript shall note whether the  
17 certificate of academic achievement was acquired by means of the  
18 Washington assessment of student learning or by an alternative  
19 assessment.

20 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, a student must  
21 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other content  
22 areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the Washington  
23 assessment of student learning or the objective alternative assessments  
24 in order to earn a certificate of academic achievement.

25 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of  
26 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based  
27 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private  
28 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the  
29 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

30 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each  
31 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment.

32 ~~((Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, the highest  
33 scale score and level achieved in each content area on the high school  
34 Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed on a  
35 student's transcript. In addition, beginning with the graduating class  
36 of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on his or  
37 her transcript for each content area in which the student achieves~~

1 ~~level four the first time the student takes that content area~~  
2 ~~assessment.~~

3 ~~(8)~~) Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to  
4 students the following options:

5 (a) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to  
6 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the  
7 state standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

8 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to  
9 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the  
10 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion  
11 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of  
12 public instruction and the state board for community and technical  
13 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these  
14 programs can be assessed.

15 ~~((9))~~ (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of  
16 the high school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall  
17 pay for retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the  
18 superintendent of public instruction.

19 ~~((10))~~ (9) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall  
20 pilot opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning  
21 in the 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,  
22 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be  
23 available to each school district.

24 ~~((11))~~ (10) The office of the superintendent of public  
25 instruction shall develop options for implementing objective  
26 alternative assessments, which may include an appeals process, for  
27 students to demonstrate achievement of the state academic standards.  
28 The objective alternative assessments shall be comparable in rigor to  
29 the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the  
30 Washington assessment of student learning and be objective in its  
31 determination of student achievement of the state standards. Before  
32 any objective alternative assessments are used by a student to  
33 demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in a content  
34 area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall formally  
35 approve the use of any objective alternative assessments through the  
36 omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

37 ~~((12))~~ (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives  
38 and senate education committees shall obtain information and

1 conclusions from recognized, independent, national assessment experts  
2 regarding the validity and reliability of the high school Washington  
3 assessment of student learning for making individual student high  
4 school graduation determinations.

5 ~~((+13+))~~ (12) To help assure continued progress in academic  
6 achievement as a foundation for high school graduation and to assure  
7 that students are on track for high school graduation, each school  
8 district shall prepare plans for students as provided in this  
9 subsection ~~((+13+))~~ (12).

10 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth  
11 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content  
12 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the  
13 previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,  
14 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet  
15 state academic standards and stay on track for graduation. This  
16 requirement shall be phased in as follows:

17 (i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade  
18 students as described in this subsection ~~((+13+))~~ (12)(a) shall have a  
19 plan.

20 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year  
21 thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection  
22 ~~((+13+))~~ (12)(a) shall have a plan.

23 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through  
24 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington  
25 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to  
26 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student  
27 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's  
28 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

29 (iv) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the  
30 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the  
31 plan made as necessary.

32 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year  
33 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not successful in one or  
34 more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of  
35 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

36 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this  
37 subsection ~~((+13+))~~ (12)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a  
38 parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington

1 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to  
2 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student  
3 was unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their  
4 student's skills.

5 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the  
6 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the  
7 plan made as necessary.

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